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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS \$340,000 TO THE NORTHEAST WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

WASHINGTON, TEXAS, **June 9, 2005** – Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today that the Northeast Washington County Water Supply Corporation was awarded \$340,000 through the agency's Community Programs Water and Waste Disposal loan and grant program. The funds will be used to improve the existing water supply system by constructing an additional well. The water supply company was operating two wells, the larger of which has been closed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This project will allow water from the new well to be blended with water from existing well, to meet and maintain water quality standards.

"The funds we are awarding to the Northeast Washington County Water Supply Corporation will help 1,070 households in Washington County," said Daniel. "USDA Rural Development is committed to providing rural communities with the resources they need to ensure safe and dependable drinking water for their residents."

USDA Rural Development's water and wastewater program is designed to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound sewage facilities to rural America's 53 million residents. Loans and grants are available to rural communities with fewer than 10,000 residents. Public bodies, corporations operating on a non-profit basis and Indian tribes that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms, are eligible for assistance.

USDA Rural Development's community programs enhance the quality of life for rural Texans by funding new and improved water and wastewater facilities, providing funds to governmental entities, non-profit organizations and Indian Tribes to enlarge, improve or construct schools, libraries, medical clinics, assisted living centers, public buildings, community centers.

USDA Rural Development works to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global marketplace, by providing programs that assist rural Americans in building strong economies and to improve their quality of life. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Bryan office at (979) 846-0548 Ext. 4, or visit our website at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/.

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